

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
February 14 - 21, 2013

1. [NATO Meetings Focus on Capabilities, Readiness](#) (02-21-2013)
2. [Priorities for Arms Control Negotiations Post-New START](#) (02-21-2013)
3. [Kerry Says U.S. Must Engage Globally Despite Fiscal Constraints](#) (02-20-2013)
4. [Panetta Notifies Congress DOD Preparing for Furloughs](#) (02-20-2013)
5. [Kerry, Ban Ki-moon Discuss North Korea, Syria, Iran](#) (02-14-2013)
6. [Carson: End to Mali Instability Requires Work on Root Causes](#) (02-14-2013)
7. [Panetta, Dempsey Honor Clinton for Leadership](#) (02-14-2013)

1. [NATO Meetings Focus on Capabilities, Readiness](#) (02-21-2013)

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

BRUSSELS, Feb. 21, 2013 – Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta spent today discussing NATO capabilities and readiness during the two-day alliance defense ministers gathering under way here.

Pentagon Press Secretary George Little, who is traveling with Panetta, said the secretary also took part in one-on-one meetings with the Italian and Afghan defense ministers.

A key theme of Panetta's meeting with Afghan Defense Minister Bismullah Khan Mohammadi, Little said, was that Afghan forces are quickly increasing capability and strength, while assuming greater responsibility across a wide range of security missions.

"The secretary expressed confidence in what the Afghans themselves are doing to build a sustainable framework for growing their own capacity to tackle ongoing challenges in their own country," Little said.

Panetta also met with Italian Defense Minister Giampaolo Di Paola and discussed the NATO International Security Assistance Force mission in Afghanistan along with budget concerns closer to home, Little said.

The two defense leaders had “a productive and warm meeting” that followed up on Panetta's visit to Rome in January, Little said.

“They discussed the transition process in Afghanistan, this year's fighting season, and the path to an enduring presence beyond 2014,” he added. “The secretary noted Italy's strong participation in ISAF.”

Panetta and di Paola also discussed NATO capabilities, budget pressures in Europe and the United States, and the looming prospect of sequestration, Little said. “The secretary emphasized how devastating sequestration would be for U.S. defense and national security,” he added.

Panetta also attended a meeting of the NATO North Atlantic Council, the alliance's political decision-making body. In an opening statement before the session, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the alliance must maintain a high level of capability and readiness.

“These have been the hallmarks of our alliance for over six decades,” he said. “To retain them in the years to come, we need to maintain our political, military and economic investment in defense.”

NATO must hold the line on defense spending, work together “to make the best of what we have,” and consider what more the alliance needs to and can do as member nations' economies recover, Rasmussen said.

During a news conference following the council meeting, the secretary general said a NATO “connected forces” initiative will join the “smart defense” program NATO adopted at its Chicago summit last year. Smart defense aims to pool countries' buying power to equip the alliance with shared capabilities, he said, while the newer initiative will “be at the forefront of delivering the modern, tightly connected, high readiness forces we need.”

Rasmussen elaborated on the concept during a briefing for reporters this afternoon. The connected forces initiative aims at using NATO's common funds in specific areas such as improving multinational deployability, interoperability and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance technologies, he said.

Improving interoperability among NATO nations' militaries will mean greater focus on training, exercises and education, he said.

“Exercises will still be a national responsibility, financed by member states,” Rasmussen noted. “But we can facilitate NATO exercises by using common funding for some parts of it.”

The defense ministers will meet again tomorrow, when the focus of discussions is scheduled to be the mission in Afghanistan.

Biographies:

[Leon E. Panetta](#)

[Anders Fogh Rasmussen](#)

Related Sites:

[Travels with Panetta](#)

[NATO](#)

[NATO International Security Assistance Force](#)

[Panetta Lands in Brussels for Afghan-focused NATO Meetings](#) (02-20-2013)

[Panetta to Lead U.S. Delegation to NATO Defense Ministerial](#) (02-15-2013)

2. Priorities for Arms Control Negotiations Post-New START (02-21-2013)

Remarks by Rose Gottemoeller, Acting Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Exchange Monitor's Fifth Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit, Arlington, VA

It is great to be here today and to see so many friends and colleagues in the audience. We should give Ed Helmski an award for convener extraordinaire. The line-up for this event is always so impressive. Thank you, Ed, for bringing us all together. While you will hear different perspectives on policies and politics, one thing is for certain – everyone here is committed to making the United States and the world a safer place to live. That is and should be our first priority. We all know that one key part of that effort is to maintain a safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent for as long as nuclear weapons exist. We also need to ensure that our security strategies are tailored to meet both the challenges of the world in which we now live, as well as those on the horizon. All the rest of our policies, projects and programs – including the three areas of possible negotiation that I will touch on today – should rest on these priorities.

It was almost four years ago that President Obama set out his vision that the United States would seek the safety and security of a world without nuclear weapons. His now-famous speech in Prague was not a call to unilaterally disarm or an assumption that the world would change overnight. It was a road map into the future – a step by step, measured strategy that takes into account the security landscape of the 21st century.

Direction from the Nuclear Posture Review

As many have noted, the traditional concept of nuclear deterrence - the idea that a country would not initiate a nuclear war for fear of nuclear retaliation - does not apply to terrorists. The 2010 Nuclear Posture Review, or NPR, rightly emphasized that today, our greatest nuclear threat is no longer a large-scale nuclear exchange, but the danger that terrorists could acquire nuclear materials or, worse, a nuclear weapon. The NPR further notes that, while our nuclear arsenal has little direct relevance in deterring this threat, concerted action by the United States and Russia – and indeed, by all nuclear weapon states – to reduce their arsenals can assist in garnering support from partners around the world for strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime, and securing nuclear materials worldwide to make it harder for terrorists to acquire nuclear materials.

For this reason, in addition to working on the prevention of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism, we have taken steps to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. national security strategy. We are not developing new nuclear weapons or pursuing new nuclear missions; we have committed not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states that are party to the NPT and in compliance with their nuclear nonproliferation obligations; and we have clearly stated that it is in the U.S. interest and that of all other nations that the nearly 65-year record of non-use of nuclear weapons be extended forever.

The Administration has also been conducting the implementation study mandated by the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review to further analyze our deterrence requirements. While I cannot discuss the details of the study, I will reiterate the President's remarks from Seoul in March 2012 where he said:

“We can already say with confidence that we have more nuclear weapons than we need. I firmly believe that we can ensure the security of the United States and our allies, maintain a strong deterrent against any threat, and still pursue further reductions in our nuclear arsenal.”

Negotiating Nuclear Reductions

So what is the next step? The Administration continues to believe that the next step in nuclear arms reductions should be pursued on a bilateral basis, since the United States and Russia still possess the vast majority of nuclear weapons in the world. With that in mind, we have a great example in the New START Treaty.

The implementation of the Treaty, now underway for two years, is going well. The Treaty's Bilateral Consultative Commission has met five times and resolved important Treaty implementation issues. The United States and Russia have exchanged over 3,600 notifications on the numbers, locations, and movements of our strategic forces. Over 70 Treaty on-site inspections have been completed so far, and other verification measures, enable each side to maintain confidence in the validity of that data. The implementation process is demonstrating that the Treaty's verification regime works, and is providing the predictability and mutual confidence that it promised. Such mutual trust and confidence is crucial to any future nuclear reduction plans.

Another benefit of New START is that it preserves each nation's ability to determine its own force structure, giving both sides the flexibility to deploy and maintain their strategic nuclear forces in a way that best serves their national security interests. This arrangement suits our priority of preserving and maintaining a robust U.S. deterrent capability that is tailored to our current security environment.

Going forward, the United States has made it clear that we are committed to continuing a step-by-step process to reduce the overall number of nuclear weapons, including the pursuit of future agreements with Russia to address all categories of nuclear weapons – strategic, non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed.

To this end, we are engaged in a bilateral dialogue to promote strategic stability and increase transparency on a reciprocal basis with the Russian Federation. I am leading this dialogue with my Russian counterpart in the Arms Control and International Security Working Group of the Bilateral Presidential Commission. I am hopeful our dialogue will lead to greater reciprocal transparency and negotiation of further nuclear weapons reductions.

One of the specific priorities in this arena is nonstrategic nuclear weapons. Consistent with the Senate's stipulation in its Resolution of Ratification of New START, the United States is seeking to initiate discussions with Russia to address the disparity between the nonstrategic nuclear weapons stockpiles of Russia and the United States.

As part of this process, the Administration is consulting with Allies to lay the groundwork for future negotiations. In approving the Deterrence and Defense Posture Review at Chicago this past May, NATO Allies determined that NATO's current posture meets the criteria for an effective deterrence and defense posture. NATO has already dramatically reduced its holdings of, and reliance on, nuclear weapons. Against this background and considering the broader security environment, NATO is prepared to consider further reducing its requirement for nonstrategic nuclear weapons assigned to the Alliance in the context of reciprocal steps by Russia, taking into account the greater Russian stockpiles of nonstrategic nuclear weapons stationed in the Euro-Atlantic area.

NATO Allies have supported and encouraged the United States and Russia to continue their mutual efforts to promote strategic stability, enhance transparency, and further reduce their nuclear weapons in every category.

In the DDPR, the United States and our NATO Allies also made clear that we look forward to discussing transparency and confidence-building ideas that can be developed and agreed cooperatively with the Russian Federation in the NATO-Russia Council. Such dialogue would advance our shared goal of enhancing European security and stability through increased mutual understanding of NATO's and Russia's nonstrategic nuclear force postures in Europe.

In support of these efforts, I was very pleased to participate in a workshop hosted by Poland and Norway in Warsaw on February 6-7, which examined the prospects for information sharing and confidence building on nonstrategic nuclear weapons in Europe. This workshop was attended by representatives from 18 NATO governments, including eight Ministry of Foreign Affairs Security Directors, as well as experts from think tanks in France, Italy, Germany, Norway, Poland, Russia, Turkey, the UK, and the United States. The discussions were a useful initial look at the opportunities and challenges we face in this complex, but important area.

Negotiating a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty

A related negotiating item on our list is a new international treaty to verifiably ban the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. A Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT) – as it is called – would complement U.S.-Russian bilateral reductions and is the clear next multilateral step to take in the arms control treaty area.

Beginning multilateral negotiations on the FMCT is a priority objective for the United States and for the vast majority of states, and we have been working to initiate such negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. But one country, Pakistan, is withholding consensus to begin negotiations. We regret this deadlock. We are endeavoring to use available opportunities on the margins of the CD to advance FMCT negotiations, including serious and unique consultations among the states that would be directly affected by an FMCT.

Negotiating Priority: Multilateral Reductions

Outside of FMCT, a more long-term goal is a multilateral negotiation on disarmament. We are not there yet, but we have made progress in starting the conversation. In 2009, the five nuclear-weapon states, or "P5," began to meet regularly to have discussions on issues of transparency, mutual confidence, and verification. Since the 2010 NPT Review Conference, these discussions have expanded to address P5 implementation of our commitments under the NPT and the 2010 Review Conference's Action Plan. I hosted the most recent P5 conference in Washington in June 2012, where the P5 tackled issues related to all three pillars of the NPT – non-proliferation, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and disarmament, including confidence-building, transparency, and verification experiences. We are looking forward to a fourth conference this April, which Russia will host in Geneva prior to the next NPT Preparatory Committee meeting.

In addition to providing a senior level policy forum for discussion and coordination among the P5 on a number of issues, this process has spawned a series of discussions during the "intersessional period" among policy and expert levels on a variety of issues. China is leading a P5 working group on nuclear definitions and terminology. The P5 are discussing our national approaches to NPT reporting, and we are also beginning to engage at expert levels on some important verification and transparency issues. In the future, we would like the P5 conferences and intersessional meetings to expand and to develop practical transparency measures that build confidence and predictability.

The Road from Prague

None of this will be easy, but the plan the Administration is pursuing is suited for our security needs and tailored for the global security threats of the 21st century. By maintaining and supporting a safe,

secure and effective stockpile - sufficient to deter any adversary and guarantee the defense of our allies- at the same time that we pursue responsible reductions through arms control, we will make this world a safer place. To paraphrase President Kennedy, whose speech 50 years ago at American University launched the NPT process, we will succeed by moving forward step by step, confident and unafraid.

Thank you and I look forward to your questions.

3. Kerry Says U.S. Must Engage Globally Despite Fiscal Constraints (02-20-2013)

By Phillip Kurata
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State John Kerry says that at a time of fiscal constraint the United States must not shrink from global engagement.

“The price of abandoning our global efforts would be exorbitant,” Kerry said in Charlottesville, Virginia, in his first major speech since becoming secretary of state. “The vacuum we would leave by retreating within ourselves will quickly be filled by those whose interests differ dramatically from ours.”

He said failed states threaten not only the United States but also the world at large. By spending slightly more than 1 percent of its national budget on foreign assistance, far less than generally believed among most Americans, the United States receives a big return on its investment, he said.

“Eleven of our top 15 trading partners used to be the beneficiaries of U.S. foreign assistance,” Kerry said. “Our goal is to use assistance and development to help nations realize their own potential, develop their own ability to govern and become our economic partners.”

But foreign policy, Kerry said, is more than trade and business figures. “It’s also measured in our deepest values,” he said, naming security, stability, human rights and democracy as some of them. He said employees of the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and diplomatic security work in some of the most dangerous places on earth.

“They fight corruption in Nigeria. They support the rule of law in Burma. They support democratic institutions in Kyrgyzstan and Georgia,” he said. “All of those efforts, all of that danger and risk that they take, makes us more secure.”

The secretary stated emphatically that foreign assistance is not a giveaway but an investment that lifts others up and reinforces their willingness to join with the United States in common endeavors. He identified climate change as one challenge that will require a worldwide effort because of the universal impact of rising temperatures and rising sea levels.

“If we waste this opportunity, it may be the only thing our generation — generations — are remembered for. We need to find the courage to leave a far different legacy,” he said.

Another unprecedented change taking place on Earth is the population explosion in the Middle East and North Africa, where 60 percent of the people are under 30 years old.

“We have an interest in helping these young people to develop the skills that they need to defeat the mass unemployment that is overwhelming their societies,” he said.

Kerry said the United States must put its own fiscal house in order if it intends to exercise global leadership, referring to the U.S. political battles over the federal budget.

“Think about it. It’s hard to tell the leadership of any number of countries that they have to resolve their economic issues if we don’t resolve our own,” he said.

The secretary said the diplomatic challenges facing the United States will not get easier with time. “There is no pause button on the future. We cannot choose when we would like to stop and restart our global responsibility,” Kerry said. “But responding is the only American thing to do.”

4. Panetta Notifies Congress DOD Preparing for Furloughs (02-20-2013)

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 2013 – Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta has notified Congress that the Defense Department is prepared to implement furloughs for civilian personnel in response to the threat of sequestration.

In a memo to all employees, Panetta vowed to continue working with Congress to avoid sequestration, which would add \$470 billion to the \$487 billion in defense spending cuts the department already is making over the next 10 years. If Congress cannot agree on an alternative deficit reduction plan, the cuts go into effect March 1.

Panetta and every other defense leader have called the cuts dangerous. They would come on top of cuts imposed by operating under a continuing resolution. For fiscal year 2013, the effect will be further magnified, because the cuts must be done in the final six months of the fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30.

“In the event of sequestration, we will do everything we can to be able to continue to perform our core mission of providing for the security of the United States,” Panetta wrote in the memo, “but there is no mistaking that the rigid nature of the cuts forced upon this department, and their scale, will result in a serious erosion of readiness across the force.”

Panetta and DOD leaders long have expressed deep concern about the direct impact sequestration will have on military personnel, civilian employees and families. Flexibility in sequestration is limited, the secretary said in his memo, noting that while military personnel are exempt from direct impact, services on bases will deteriorate, and families may feel the pinch in other ways.

Civilian employees will be furloughed if sequestration is triggered. Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter said last week that civilian employees could lose 20 percent of their normal income through September.

“I can assure you that, if we have to implement furloughs, all affected employees will be provided at least 30 days’ notice prior to executing a furlough, and your benefits will be protected to the maximum extent possible,” Panetta wrote.

DOD will work to ensure furloughs are executed in a consistent and appropriate manner, the secretary said, and Pentagon officials also will continue work with employee unions.

“Our most important asset at the department is our world-class personnel,” Panetta wrote. “You are fighting every day to keep our country strong and secure, and rest assured that the leaders of this department will continue to fight with you and for you.”

Biographies:

[Leon E. Panetta](#)

[Message](#)

Related Sites:

[Special Report: Sequestration](#)

[Office of Personnel Management Frequently Asked Questions on Furloughs](#)

Related Articles:

[Sequestration Could Delay Redeployment for Soldiers in Afghanistan](#)

[Carter: Sequestration Would Demonstrate Failure of Resolve](#)

[Carter Describes ‘Crisis of Readiness’ During Senate Testimony](#)

[5. Kerry, Ban Ki-moon Discuss North Korea, Syria, Iran \(02-14-2013\)](#)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.

Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State John Kerry and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon held talks on the recent North Korean nuclear test, the “desperate humanitarian crisis” caused by the Syrian civil strife and the resumption of nuclear talks with Iran.

“We know above all that the enormous array of the world’s challenges that we face requires huge cooperation between all countries and the United Nations, and the United Nations plays the vital role in that collaboration,” Kerry said moments before the two met privately February 14. It was Kerry’s first meeting with Ban since he became secretary a week ago.

Kerry opened his remarks with journalists on the February 12 nuclear weapon test by North Korea, calling it an “enormously provocative act that warrants a strong, a swift, and a credible response from the global community.”

Kerry said the nuclear test, which is North Korea’s third known test, poses a threat to the peace and security throughout the Northeast Asia region. He pledged to increase cooperation with the Six-Party partners — China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Russia — and also the U.N. Security Council to respond appropriately.

President Obama said after the nuclear weapons test was announced that these types of actions do little to make North Korea more secure.

“Far from achieving its stated goal of becoming a strong and prosperous nation, North Korea has instead increasingly isolated and impoverished its people through its ill-advised pursuit of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery,” Obama said in a White House statement.

Ban told journalists alongside Kerry at the State Department that the action by North Korea “was a direct challenge to the international community.” He added that he recently called on the

Pyongyang leadership to give up pursuing a nuclear weapons program and instead focus on building crucial infrastructure for the North Korean people and address pressing humanitarian needs.

Kerry said they also planned to discuss the ever-increasing humanitarian crisis in Syria following almost two years of civil strife across the country. The United States will continue to press the regime of President Bashar al-Assad to relinquish power. The United States will also provide support to opposition leaders who respect the rights of the Syrian people.

“I want to learn from the secretary-general what he thinks we can do to best assist in the effort to try to change President Assad’s calculations, to stop the bloodshed and begin a peaceful political transition towards a democratic future for all the people of Syria,” Kerry said. “We will also consult on the desperate humanitarian situation.”

Kerry said that as many as 70,000 people have been killed in Syria since fighting began March 15, 2011, in the aftermath of nationwide demonstrations. The consequence of the violence has been the displacement of thousands of refugees, which creates dislocations and burdens on neighboring countries that are prepared to receive them, he added.

“We need to rally the international community in response to the U.N.’s appeal for more funds in order to deal with the humanitarian assistance for those suffering inside Syria as well as those people who have been dislocated,” Kerry said.

Ban said U.N. relief agencies are mobilizing humanitarian assistance for growing numbers of refugees and displaced people both inside and outside of Syria — as well as both government-controlled areas and opposition-controlled areas. Ban said he and Joint Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi are calling on the U.N. Security Council to be united and speak and act with one voice in dealing with the Assad government.

Kerry said diplomatic talks with Iran over its nuclear weapons development program will resume later in February in Kazakhstan. “I want to reiterate that these talks can only make progress if the Iranians come to the table determined to make and discuss real offers and engage in a real dialogue,” he added.

Nations that operate peaceful nuclear programs generally do not have problems proving they are peaceful, Kerry said. And negotiators are not going to engage in a delay-after-delay process.

The two also indicated that they planned to discuss climate change, the next steps in Mali, Somalia and the Middle East peace process.

Related Article:

[Kerry, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Before Their Meeting](#)

6. Carson: End to Mali Instability Requires Work on Root Causes (02-14-2013)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — While the Obama administration supports the ongoing French and African military operations in Mali, neutralizing the terrorist threat in the Sahel region will be a long-term effort and will require addressing the underlying causes of violence and instability, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson told U.S. lawmakers.

In his prepared testimony for the House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs in Washington February 14, Carson said the evolving crisis in the country, which saw a military coup in March 2012 and a takeover of its northern territory by Islamic extremists, has been “one of the most difficult, complex and urgent problems” West Africa has faced in recent decades.

“Mali’s problems reflect the fragility of governance in the region, the lack of economic development — especially in northern Mali — the absence of meaningful opportunities for people to engage with their governments, and the widespread desperation that exists in an unforgiving, arid region with chronic food insecurity,” Carson said.

The country’s troubles also demonstrate how these conditions can be quickly exploited by terrorist groups such as al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa, he said.

To end the long cycle of violence in Mali, the underlying challenges behind the violence must be addressed “comprehensively and simultaneously,” he said.

Specifically, Carson pointed to al-Qaida’s continued presence in northern Mali, the need to restore democracy and to address the humanitarian crisis in the country, and the need to begin negotiations with “northern groups that renounce terrorism and recognize the unity of the Malian state.”

Northern indigenous populations, such as the Tuaregs, have “legitimate political, social and economic grievances,” he said. Nonextremist groups, Malian authorities and their regional and international partners need to begin “a serious and sustained effort” to address those grievances.

Carson applauded the political road map that was unanimously approved by the Malian National Assembly on January 29, which aims to restore democracy and promote national reconciliation, and to hold a presidential election by July 31.

The road map supports long-term negotiations and its dialogue with “those groups that renounce armed struggle, adhere to the principles of democracy and the rule of law, and accept without condition Mali’s territorial integrity,” Carson said. He urged Malian authorities to follow through on addressing the political and economic needs of the north.

More than 400,000 people became refugees or were internally displaced as a result of the conflict, and the Obama administration has responded with more than \$120 million in humanitarian assistance to Mali, as part of its \$467 million for aid in the Sahel region during 2012 and 2013, Carson said.

The State Department also intends to provide up to \$96 million in 2013 to support the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA). From the beginning of the French and African military operations to drive extremists out of northern Mali, the United States has also supported security efforts by sharing intelligence information, providing airlift support for personnel and supplies, and aerial refueling, Carson said.

“We welcome the continued progress of French and African operations in Mali. And we agree that the challenge now is to stabilize northern Mali and protect civilians and human rights while maintaining pressure on terrorist groups and advancing the political track,” he said.

Carson warned that while the French and African intervention has created a valuable opportunity to bring about political stability, “any military success will be fleeting without a democratic and credible government that is responsive to the needs of all Malians.”

“We will work to ensure that military success can be translated into long-term stability by encouraging expedited elections, marginalizing the military junta, holding perpetrators accountable for human rights abuses, and supporting a national reconciliation process that addresses the long-standing and legitimate grievances of northern populations,” he said.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs Amanda Dory told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that as the outside military intervention in Mali transitions to a stabilization mission, “it will be critical that the international community help Mali craft a sustainable, African-led solution that addresses legitimate grievances, maintains pressure on extremists and ensures protection of civilians.”

Dory said “there is no consideration” of deploying U.S. combat forces in Mali, but U.S. military personnel are working to build the capacity of countries in North and West Africa to counter shared threats and provide security for their people through training in military professionalism, ethics and human rights.

“Our model of building the capacity of African partners to take responsibility for their own security remains appropriate, and has been successful with other states in the region. We have built strong security relationships with Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad and elsewhere, and believe that persistent engagement with these partners will continue to yield benefits,” she said.

7. Panetta, Dempsey Honor Clinton for Leadership (02-14-2013)

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, 2013 – Each generation of Americans must earn the responsibility to lead, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said at the Pentagon today as Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presented her with awards and thanked her for her efforts to work with the military to extend America’s leadership.

The threats Americans face require military power, but they also require diplomatic efforts and economic levers, Panetta said. Working together, he added, extends American power and influence.

Clinton joked that in the past, there was no love lost between the State and Defense departments. She praised former Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and former Joint Chiefs Chairman Navy Adm. Mike Mullen with reaching out to the diplomats in Foggy Bottom and stressing to Congress the need for fully funding the State Department.

Clinton took office in January 2009, and her time at State was tumultuous. During her term, she worked to reach out to new governments in wake of the Arab Spring. She helped to put together the coalition that toppled Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi, and she helped to build support for sanctions against Iran, Dempsey said.

Those in uniform very much appreciate this last, the chairman said, “so that we can avoid the use of force, although remaining ready to do so, if necessary.”

The chairman said Clinton recognized the limits of military action, and that the United States needs both hard power and soft power. “You’ve harnessed innovative ways to accomplish engagement, including social media and global town halls, all the while remembering that it’s the investment of your personal time that builds relationships,” Dempsey said.

Panetta remarked that he has worked closely with Clinton for 20 years. “Because of her leadership, our nation’s diplomats and our development experts are working toward a common mission with the men and women of the Department of Defense, and I’m confident that our successes will sustain the bonds that we have built between the Department of Defense and the State Department,” he said.

DOD and State Department personnel serve side by side from Afghanistan to North Africa, from the Middle East to Asia Pacific, and are making “great personal sacrifices in order to prevent conflict, to advance the cause of peace and security, and to help achieve the American dream of giving our children a better life,” Panetta said.

The U.S. national security apparatus must keep innovating and integrating, Clinton said. “We have to remain committed to upholding America’s global leadership and our core values of freedom and opportunity,” she said.

The United States is the indispensable nation, the former secretary said, and there is no real precedent in history for the role America plays or the responsibility shouldered. “But I often remind myself that our global leadership is not our birthright,” she added. “It has to be earned by each successive generation, staying true to our values and living up to the best traditions of our nation. Secretaries and presidents come and go, but this responsibility remains constant. It truly must be our North Star.”

Clinton told the junior officers and civilians in the audience that the country looks to them to carry the mission of American leadership forward.

“So thank you for this tremendous honor that has been bestowed on me by the chairman, and also the honor by the secretary,” she said. “I thank you all for your service. ... Let’s wish our country godspeed. And please extend to all with whom you serve my deepest gratitude, not as a retired public official, but as an American citizen.”

Biographies:

[Leon E. Panetta](#)

[Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey](#)
